

REMARKS:

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-20 were pending. Claims 1-20 stand rejected. Pursuant to this Amendment, claims 1 and 16 have been amended, claims 7 and 10-15 have been cancelled, and new claims 21-27 have been added. Claims 1-6, 8, 9, and 16-27 remain pending.

Claims 1-3, 5-9 and 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,264,047 to Nelson. Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,749,157 to Takeuchi. Claims 10-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,394,695 to Chausset. These rejections are traversed for at least the following reasons.

First, without agreeing with the Examiner as to what is or is not taught by the art of record, claims 10-15 have been cancelled, thereby making the rejections thereto moot. Second, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of now cancelled claim 7, thereby rendering the 102(b) rejection of claims 1 and 4 by Takeuchi moot. Removal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

In regards to the rejection under Nelson, again, without agreeing with the Examiner as to what is or is not taught by the art of record, independent claims 1 and 16 have been amended to more clearly define what it is the applicant regards as his invention. More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite that the upper component is releasably mountable to the lower mounting base by sliding the upper component across the lower mounting base, and claim 16 has been amended to more clearly recite that the upper component is removably mounted to the base component so as to be completely separable therefrom. Nelson, on the other hand, describes a one-piece combination that includes a first portion that is integrally hinged to a second portion. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, claims 1 and 16 are patentable over Nelson. Moreover, claims 2-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 17-20 depend from one of claims 1

and 16, and, therefore, are allowable for the same reasons applied thereto as well as for the addition subject matter recited in each.

New claims 21-27 have been added to define additional patentable subject matter in view of the art of record.

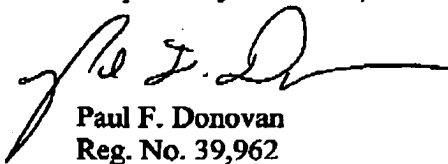
No new matter has been added to the subject application by way of the amendments and remarks made herein.

Reconsideration of the rejected claims and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any remaining issues to be addressed, in order to expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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